

Applicant : Mitsuaki Osame et al.
Serial No. : 10/724,365
Filed : December 1, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 12732-183001 / US6776

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2A and 2B and replaces the original sheet.

Figs. 2A and 2B have been amended to include the legend "PRIOR ART."

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 page)
Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (1 page)

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 24, 25, 30, 31, 37, 38, 43, 44, 47, 48, 53, 54, and 57-98 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 57, 61, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85 and 91 being independent. Claims 3-6, 9, 10, 13, 16-19, 22, 23, 26-29, 32-36, 39-42, 45, 46, 49-52 and 55-56 have been canceled. Claims 14, 15, 20, 21, 24, 25, 30 and 31 have been amended for clarity, and claims 57-98 have been added. Applicants submit that new claims 57-98 correspond to the elected invention. No new matter has been added.

The information disclosure statement filed on 7/27/04 and 11/22/04 has been objected to because the statement did not include copies of references "AQ" and "AR." Copies of these references are submitted with this amendment. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request a signed copy of the PTO-1449 submitted with the information disclosure statement filed on 11/22/04.

Figs. 2(A) and 2(B) of the application have been objected to for failing to include a legend designating them as "Prior Art." Applicants have amended the drawings to designate Figs. 2(A) and 2(B) as "Prior Art." Applicants, therefore, request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

The specification of the application has been objected to because of an improper designation of "data latch circuit 5003" as "data latch circuit 5004" on page 18 of the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to correct this typographical error per the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 43, 44, 53 and 54.

Claims 14, 15, 20, 21, 24, 25, 30, and 31, which depend from claims 1, 2, 7 and 8, have been rejected as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis and lack of clarity.. These claims have been amended to address these issues. Consequently, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 2, along with their dependent claims 14, 15, 24, 25, 37, 38, 47, and 48, have been rejected as being anticipated by Tam (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,146). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 each recite "a data latch circuit which samples a digital signal."

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2, and their dependent claims, because Tam does not describe or suggest the recited data latch circuit for sampling a digital signal.

Tam describes a comparator circuit for comparing two input voltages. Tam does not describe or suggest a data latch circuit for sampling digital signals or, for that matter, applying the described comparator circuit to a data latch circuit for sampling digital signals. Applicants submit that the application of a comparator circuit structure in a data latch circuit for sampling digital signals is not described or suggested by Tam.

For at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 and dependent claims 14, 15, 24, 25, 37, 38, 47 and 48.

Claims 57-98, including independent claims 57, 61, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85 and 91, have been added. Each of claims 57, 61, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85 and 91 recites a semiconductor device that includes one or more data latch circuits. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, claims 57, 61, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85 and 91, and their dependent claims, are also allowable over the cited art.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Enclosed is a \$1900.00 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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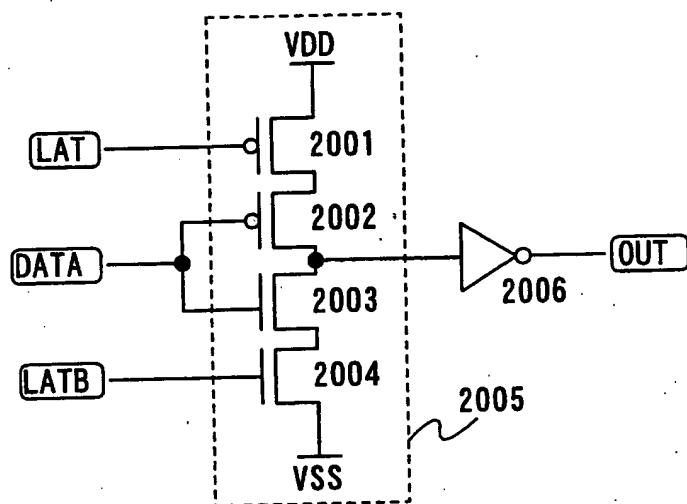
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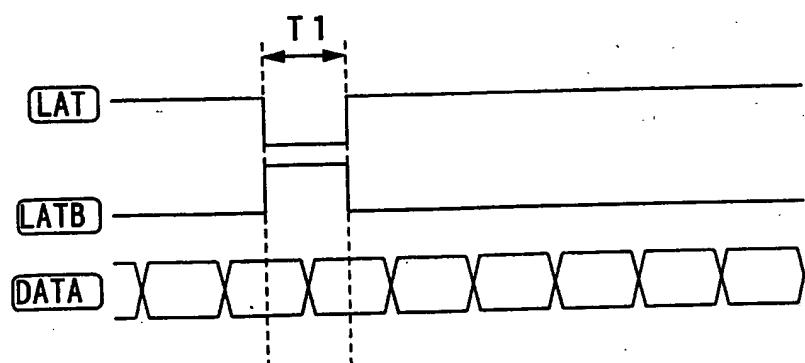


FIG. 2

(A)



(B)



(PRIOR ART)